



# D ESERT EVIL ISPATCH

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Serving the men and women of Regional Command East, Operation Enduring Freedom - Afghanistan

Sept. 1, 2005

## Red Falcons engage enemy on OP Neptune



Pfc. Mike Pryor

**Paratroopers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, prepare to search a room while conducting a cordon and search in Nawa District, Afghanistan Aug. 10**

**By Pfc. Mike Pryor**

Task Force Red Falcon PAO

WARDAK, Afghanistan - After several weeks of sizing each other up, Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division's Task Force Red Falcon and enemy forces in Eastern Ghazni Province met head on for the first time during Operation Neptune August 8 - 12, resulting in the death of two terrorists.

Beginning with an early morning raid August 9 on a village suspected of harboring terrorists, units from the Afghan National Army and

the Afghan National Police as well as two companies from the 82nd's newly-arrived 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, spent the next several days continually criss-crossing the isolated, desert regions of Nawa, Dila, and Gelan, conducting raids and cordon-and-searches as they moved. The operation eventually netted two high value targets suspected of being Taliban ringleaders.

As the coalition and Afghan vice tightened, the enemy responded by attacking with guerilla tactics. Twice during the operation

Coalition convoys were hit by improvised explosive devices.

The first IED struck a convoy from D Company traveling along a dirt road in Nawa. The blast destroyed a Humvee and left scrap metal and pieces of equipment strewn across the road, but the vehicle's crew was unhurt.

"I thought we had hit a huge bump. Then we went up in the air and I saw this black cloud of smoke go over my head and my .50 cal

**See "Neptune" page 10**

### Inside



**Troops remember 'Doc Katz'**

**Page 3**



**Marines pursue enemy in Korengal**

**Page 4**



**Afghan villagers turn in weapons**

**Page 5**

# Opinion & Commentary

Page 2

Sept. 1, 2005

## Devil 6: Afghans and U.S share the mission

**Col. Patrick J. Donahue II**

Combined Task Force Devil Commander

Every day soldiers in Regional Command East prove that our mission here in Afghanistan is making a difference.

I see it more and more everyday; we are working ourselves out of a job and I'm not the only one who believes this. Any Task Force Devil soldier can tell you from experience that the soldiers in the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police are stepping up and taking the lead in their country's future.

During the summer run-up to the parliamentary elections, the ANA working with soldiers from RC East have been at the front of operations while Coalition forces provide support. Because of our combined efforts, heavy casualties have been meted out to the enemies of peace and freedom.

In Kunar the ANA and the 2nd Battalion 3rd Marine Regiment fought side by side in 29 separate engagements during Operation Whalers. Afghan security forces report these engagements resulted in over 40 enemies killed and many more wounded.

Marines and ANA soldiers were wounded and one Marine and ANA soldier were killed in action - proof that the Afghan soldier is willing to sacrifice

for what we too are fighting for.

In our southern sectors, the ANA were responsible for saving a town from possible destruction. When a fire broke out in a local shop, local Afghan Police using a water hose from the back of a truck, along with local villagers who formed a water bucket brigade, doused the flames. Their heroic efforts controlled the fire and kept a propane gas tank from exploding which saved the other shops and homes nearby from being destroyed even at the risk of their own lives.

In our central sector we have witnessed Afghans take the lead in providing services to distant districts.

A recent medical exercise in the Khost Province saw

Afghan Army doctors and Medics rolling up their sleeves and treating countrymen in remote villages while Coalition medical support teams stood by to assist if necessary.

Thanks to the encouragement, training and support provided by TF Devil, the Afghans are not allowing the ACM to push them back from the progress they seek. Desperate Taliban insurgents, bent on disrupting the first parliamentary elections in modern Afghanistan, are hoping that their campaign of terror will somehow derail Afghanistan's movement towards free-

**"No matter what success the enemy may have, I know the Afghan people will not be deterred."**

-Col. Patrick J. Donahue II  
Commander  
Combined Task Force Devil



**Col. Patrick J. Donahue II**  
Commander, CTF Devil

dom.

The truth is that the desire and determination of the Afghan people along with the support of Coalition forces will make the efforts of the insurgents fail.

No matter what success the enemy may have, I know the Afghan people will not be deterred. Operations like Vigilant Sentinel, a series of coordinated Afghan and Coalition offensive operations designed to secure the election process and improve the prosperity of Afghanistan, is defeating the enemy threat to Afghanistan in RC East.

You can be proud that your efforts and sacrifice is the catalyst for Afghanistan's rebirth - you are making a difference. We are truly working ourselves out of a job.

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# Co. C troops remember Katzenberger

**Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke**  
Editor

GARDEZ, Afghanistan—Sgt. 1st Class Robert Olsen's first memory of Spc. Christopher "Katz" Katzenberger was during the administration of pre-deployment shots. Katzenberger, the newest medic to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, mistakenly gave his new platoon sergeant the wrong set of shots resulting in Olsen receiving all the shots on the pre-deployment checklist.

Olsen laughs about the painful situation now, along with the other paratroopers of Co. C as they remember Katzenberger, their first combat loss since deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in April.

Katzenberger was killed Aug. 9 when an improvised explosive device struck the vehicle he was riding in. Another paratrooper of Co. C was wounded in the attack.

At the age of 25, he was a little older than the average Army specialist, but still had a not-so inner child according to his comrades who knew him best.

"He was like a brother to us, always the clown of the

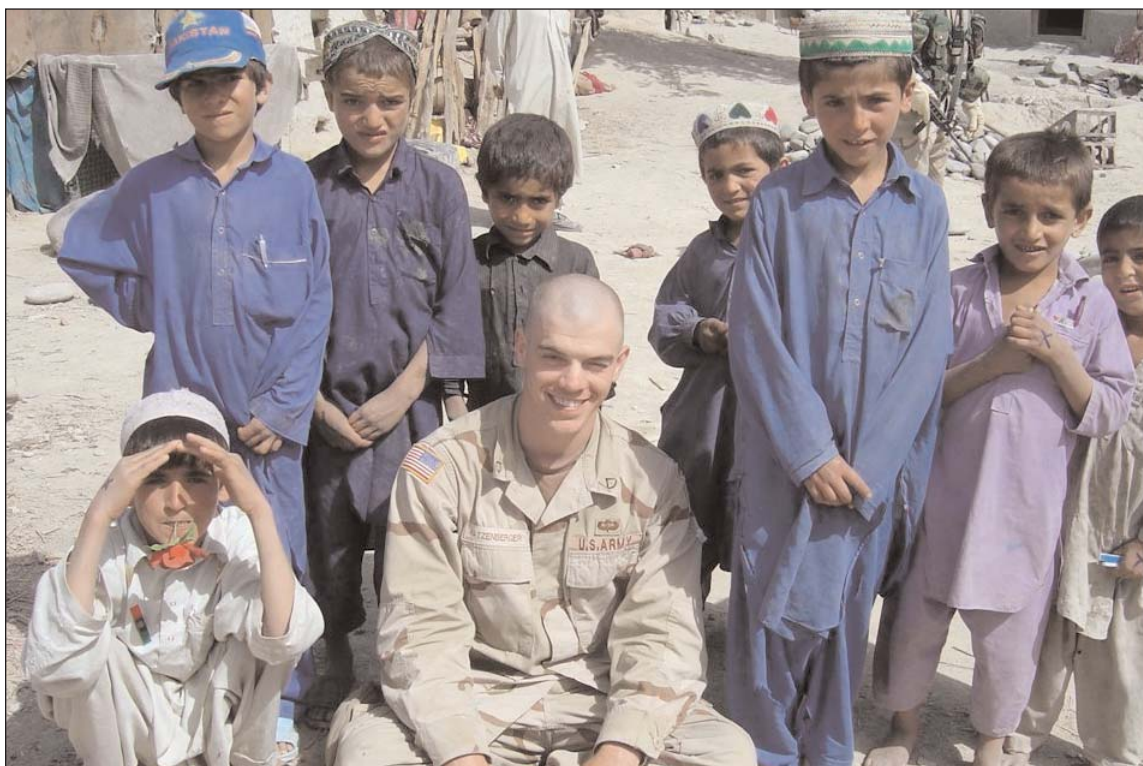


Photo contributed by Task Force White Devil

**Spc. Christopher "Katz" Katzenberger with Afghan children while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Katzenberger was killed Aug. 9 when the vehicle he was riding in was struck with an improvised explosive device.**

group," said Spc. Jeremiah Hogan, a medic with Co. C.

"If you were having a bad day he would say something or do something to make your day better," Hogan said.

"One time I was having a really bad day and he just came up behind me and started rubbing my shoulders," said Spc. Andrew

Linnell. "It kind of freaked me out, but it got me laughing."

"Just a week ago the (physician's assistant) was making pancakes for breakfast and (Katzenberger) woke up really early like a little kid on Christmas," said Hogan. "He even jumped on my bed to wake me up for them."

"We even heard he was joking with the crew when he was being (medically evacuated)," said Hogan. "They asked him how he felt and he replied 'I just got blown up how do you think I feel?'"

One thing Katzenberger took seriously was his job of saving lives as a medic.

"Every class we had, he would buy the books and manuals," Hogan said.

Katzenberger would also ask everyone if they had taken their daily malaria pills after breakfast, Linnell said.

It seemed to Hogan and Linnell that Katzenberger had found his place in life as

an Army medic after bouncing around between jobs since graduating high school. He had hoped to take his training further and become a medic with the 75th Ranger Regiment or Special Forces.

Katzenberger's dedication to his duties paid off when an Afghan woman was brought to a Coalition base in Kabul. She was unconscious and not breathing. Katzenberger put his medic's skills to the test and revived the woman, saving her life, said 1st Sgt. Jeffrey Brown.

"He left here one-up; he never took a life and he saved lives," Brown said.

Following the memorial ceremony the new name for the forward operating base's morale welfare and recreation facility was unveiled. "Katzenberger's Korner" will serve as a permanent reminder to those operating out of Forward Operating Base Gardez to what Katzenberger meant to the paratroopers of Co. C.



Spc. Christopher Admire

**A paratrooper from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, pays his final respects to Spc. Christopher "Katz" Katzenberger during a memorial ceremony.**



# ANA, Marines conduct Operation Whalers

## Combined Joint Task Force 76 News Release

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Afghanistan National Army forces and U.S. Marines conducted an offensive operation over the last few weeks in the districts of Chawkay, Asadabad, Pech and Narang in the Konar Province. The purpose of the operation was to disrupt enemy forces in the area.

The ANA and Marines fought side by side in 29 separate engagements with the enemy during Operation Whalers. Afghan security forces report these engagements resulted in over 40 enemy killed and many more wounded.

According to local elders and officials, Operation Whalers disrupted enemy activity and continues to undermine the will of the populace who support enemy forces.

"The ANA have demonstrated their abilities with great success," said Lt. Col. James E. Donnellan, commanding officer of 2nd Battalion 3rd Marine Regiment. "The willingness and professionalism of the ANA to engage the enemy will ensure the security of Afghanistan. Our operation has clearly degraded the enemy's ability to interfere with the upcoming elections."

Lt. Col Nasir, commanding officer of the ANA battalion, also stated he was proud of the courage shown by his Afghan soldiers.

Afghan soldiers made many sacrifices to fight for a democratic and free Afghanistan and they will win the war on terrorism and defeat the enemies of Afghanistan with the



Sgt. Robert M. Storm

**Lance Cpl. Mark D. Renshaw, infantryman, from Fruita, Colo. does first aid on an Afghan National Army soldier during a firefight, the soldier was shot in the bicep.**

help of Coalition forces, according to Nasir.

Afghan and U.S. forces worked in close coordination with local leaders during the mission and met several times with Provincial Governor Wafa. Governor Wafa broadcasted several messages on local radio stations explaining the purpose of Operation Whalers.

Civil affairs and medical personnel are also ensuring Afghan citizens in the area receive medical treatment and an opportunity to prosper and improve their lives.

Governor Wafa expects this operation to

encourage of Afghanistan to reconcile and join the Program Tahkim-e-Solh, the government of Afghanistan's reconciliation program, so they can participate in the democratic process of rebuilding this country.

"The enemy continues to learn the hard way that U.S., Coalition, and Afghan National Security Forces will continue to be relentless in their search for, and destruction of, the enemy," said Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya, Combined Joint Task Force 76 commanding general.

# Marine killed in fierce firefight

**By Sgt. Robert M. Storm**  
2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

ASADABAD, Afghanistan - Lance Cpl. Phillip C. George died Aug. 18 during an ambush by enemy forces in the Korengal Valley of Afghanistan. He is survived by his parents Carson George and Penny George.

George was an infantryman who served with 2nd Platoon, Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

His unit was ambushed by an estimated 20 to 30 enemies during an extraction following a mission that lasted nine days. The firefight took place while Marines were passing through the village Taleban and lasted

more than an hour.

"He was a great friend; he was a serious person who had a very dry, sarcastic sense of humor, but he was fiercely loyal to his friends and family," said Lance Cpl. Spencer E. Kimball, an infantryman from Flower Mountain, Texas. "He really loved being a Marine."

George was born on September 3, 1982 in Houston Texas. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on December 10, 2002. Upon the completion of his training, he received orders to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

"George was physically fit, tactically proficient, and one of the top team leaders in the platoon. He was constantly teaching his junior Marines to excel

and displayed great leadership," said Cpl. Anthony Sarmienta an infantryman from Ennis, Texas. "He was hardcore. He wanted to go to Iraq with Blackwater (an independent security company) after he got out of the Marine Corps."

His awards include Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, and the Bronze Star Medal.

"George went above and beyond any expectations that I had of him; he accomplished every task given him no matter how small," said Lt. Christopher R. Hagan, platoon commander, from East Greenwich, Rhode Island.

"He made an extraordinary

effort to learn the necessary local phrases that would help out the unit. He outdid me on how much he learned."



**Lance Cpl. Phillip C. George**



# Local Afghans turn in weapons

**By Sgt. Robert M. Storm**

2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

JALALABAD AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Afghans from the Sarur Village, Dari Nur District, Nangarhar Province, came forward to turn in a weapons cache, July 26, to Whiskey Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, currently serving in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

"My job is to recover illegal weapons by any means available. Sometimes we have to use force, but sometimes, luckily, the villagers in the area will come

forward to let us know about them," said Capt. Javier Torres, Whiskey company commander, from Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico. "We're the first outsiders these people have seen since they were invaded by the Russians, so it's important for us to build trust. We didn't come in and search all the houses because they showed us the weapons cache, and we want them to trust us so they'll come forward again."

The villagers at first wanted the Marine Corps to pay \$500 for the weapons before they would reveal the location, but after some easy negotiating, they agreed to give up the site in return for medical assistance.

At an elevation of 4,400 feet, the village is situated between mountains and takes more than four hours to reach by foot. The trail leading to the village is inaccessible by vehicle and starts at 1,300 feet. The five-kilometer hike ascends 3,000 feet making it remote enough that even the Afghan

National Army doesn't patrol the area. Due to the village's isolated location, basic medical care is unavailable. To seek treatment, the villagers must first make a three hour hike down to the nearest road then travel to a nearby city.

"It's amazing people live up here. At one point the trail we took had a sheer cliff drop off on one side. This is one of the hardest hikes I've ever done," said Lance Cpl. Joshua Britner, from Freemont, Ohio.

While many times the Marine Corps is known for an aggressive approach, the Marines chose a light-handed option in the hopes that three other adjacent villages would reveal any concealed weapons hidden in their areas.

The villages' isolation makes them perfect locations for storing munitions. Without local help, the caches would never be found.

After recovering the munitions, the problem of getting the cache down the mountain surfaced. The only workable solution was to employ the use of mules to carry the munitions back down.

"We are very happy to help; with the cooperation of the ANA we are glad the Marines are here. They bring peace and security. We want to cooperate and will help look for more weapons," said a village elder through the interpreter Sayed Noorullah. "We have no medicine or schools, so for Marines to bring us help is a great thing."



Sgt. Robert M. Storm

**Weapons from a cache turned into Marines by Afghans of the Sarur Village, in Nangarhar Province. Marines provided medical assistance to the village in exchange for the cache.**



Spc. Laura E. Griffin

## Red Devils on point...

2nd Lt. Chane Jackson, Company A, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Spc. David "Doc" Lambie, combat medic, and Sgt. Michael Fogleman take aim at a compound during a raid Aug. 8 in the Waza Khwa district as part of Operation Neptune.



# Medic cool under pressure



Pfc. Mike Pryor

**Sgt. Christopher Turner of Glenrothes, Scotland, a medic currently attached to Task Force Red Falcon in Eastern Afghanistan, checks a patient's IV bag while overseeing the battalion aid station during Operation Neptune Aug. 10.**

**By Pfc. Mike Pryor**

Task Force Red Falcon PAO

NAWA, Afghanistan - It wasn't even noon yet, and already Sgt. Christopher Turner had been hit in the face by concrete fragments, been forced to deputize a chaplain to man his understrength aid station, and given emergency CPR to an officer who had stopped breathing.

It is in these situations that Turner is at his best.

"I'm just managing the chaos," he said cheerfully as he prepped another IV bag for use.

Turner, 29, originally from Glenrothes, Scotland, is a medic attached to 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. He has been a pillar of dependability for the battalion since it began combat operations in Eastern Afghanistan in mid-July.

"He's been a great asset to the team. He brings a wealth of knowledge from previous deployments to help teach and mentor the younger

medics in the battalion. He has a strong work ethic, second to none, and he's always willing to lend a hand. The Red Falcon medics are proud to have him as an addition to the team," said Lt. Dan Coulter, the battalion medical officer.

Turner prefers to view himself as a magnet for trouble.

"I hate my name. I hear it all the time and it's never for anything good. It's never, 'Hey Sgt. Turner you just won \$1,000!' It's always, 'Hey Sgt. Turner, I'm hurt!' or 'Hey Sgt. Turner, I need a medic!' he said.

Either way, Turner's abilities were put to good use during Operation Neptune, a massive cordon-and-search operation in the deserts of Eastern Afghanistan the battalion conducted Aug. 8 - 12.

The first patient Turner had to treat during the operation was himself, after an accidental weapon discharge hit a wall nearby and sprayed chips of concrete in his face.

"I got peppered a bit," he

**See "Turner" page 10**

## Former Taliban reconciles with Afghanistan

**By Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke**

Editor

GARDEZ, Afghanistan -- Mullah Haji Jailani, a former Taliban and Haqqani sub-commander in Gardez, entered Afghanistan's Program Tahkim-e-Solh at the Gardez Provincial Governor's Building Aug. 13.

Jailani was welcomed back into Afghan society by the province's acting governor, Maj. Gen. Hai Gullsaliman Khail, and Darwish, the Minister of Information and Culture.

The PTS program provides former enemies of Afghanistan the opportunity to lay down their arms and rejoin Afghan society peacefully.

"More than 30 individuals have joined the process so far in Gardez Province," Darwish said.

"We were the only other province besides Kabul to set up a special commission just

for reconciliation," he added.

He also believes the commission helped make the process faster and more effective at convincing once troublesome rebels to join in the government's process to rebuild a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan.

"Our commission is very busy," said Khail. "We used to hold meetings for this sort of thing once a week, now we have it twice a week."

"The stabilization of this program was needed," said Khail. "(Those who join PTS) can play a big part in rebuilding Afghanistan."

Darwish hopes Jailani's efforts to reconcile with the Afghan government will convince others that the process is worthwhile and important. The goal is for the majority of former Taliban, HIG and Haqqani members to take part in this opportunity and assume active roles in ending violence in Afghanistan and ensuring the country's future economic and political prosperity.



Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke

**Mullah Haji Jailani, former Taliban leader.**

# Soldier reenlists with EOD style

By **Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke**  
Editor

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO**, Afghanistan—You could say that reenlisting in Afghanistan is a blast if you are an explosive ordnance disposal specialist with the 749th Ordnance Company like Spc. Daniel MacAlister, a Dover-Foxcroft, Maine, native.

MacAlister's recommitment to the Army was punctuated by an explosion of flames as he recited the Oath of Enlistment at Forward Operating Base Salerno's demolitions range.

Once the oath was completed a boom rocked the silent Afghan mountainsides and a wall of flame, similar to what can be seen in an action movie, rose to the sky.

"This is kind of our thing," said MacAlister, describing the tradition of EOD Soldiers marking the occasion with

explosives.

Fellow EOD specialists from the 749th dug holes approximately every 10 feet in a line at the demolitions range. Detonation chord was stretched the length of the holes with a few extra feet of the explosive cable in each hole. Next the soldiers placed fuel filled plastic trash bags into the holes. The detonation chord sent the fuel upward as it burned.

"I've seen reenlistments up on 'Radar Hill', on Black Hawks, even some before jumps," said Staff Sgt. Eric Kaplan, a Paso Robles, Calif., native and career counselor with Combined Task Force Devil. "But this is the most elaborate I have seen."

MacAlister, who has been active Army for two years as an EOD specialist, reenlisted for six years and netting a \$25,000 tax free bonus.

Twenty-five thousand dol-



Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke

**Spc. Daniel MacAlister, an explosive ordnance disposal specialist with the 759th Ordnance Company, reenlists with a bang Aug. 19 at Forward Operating Base Salerno's demolitions range.**

lars is larger than the average reenlistment bonus, Kaplan said.

Most soldiers receive about \$15,000 for reenlistments depending on the contract, a Soldiers job, and rank, said

Kaplan.

However, many factors determine what Soldiers are eligible for and all Soldiers are encouraged to visit the CTF Devil retention office, Kaplan added.

## Red Falcon commo goes the distance

By **Pfc. Mike Pryor**  
Task Force Red Falcon PAO

**WARDAK, AFGHANISTAN** - "Delta Six Romeo, Delta Six Romeo, this is Red Four Three Sierra. Radio check, over," Spc. Shawn Sinclair said into his transmitter. Several tense seconds passed as he waited for a response. Then, faintly but clearly, came the voice at the other end of the receiver: "Red Four Three Sierra, this is Delta Six Romeo. I hear you loud and clear, over."

It may not seem like much, but this simple conversation represented the culmination of almost a month of hard work by Paratroopers from the communications shop of the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment.

The first successful transmission between Battalion Headquarters and Company D - stationed more than 160 kilometers away at Forward Operating Base South - was completed using the newly operational AN/PRC - 150 High Frequency radio Aug. 21.

The decision to use HF was made out of necessity rather than choice. After

arriving in Afghanistan in mid-July, the Red Falcons of 1st Battalion learned quickly the mountainous terrain, primitive infrastructure, and vast distances between bases in the country make communication difficult. Inside the operations center at battalion headquarters, it was a daily struggle to maintain contact with troopers conducting missions outside the wire - especially those assigned to D Co.

None of the battalion's communication equipment was up to the task of sustaining constant radio contact over long distances, said Sinclair, a signal support specialist in the commo shop.

"ASIPs don't reach far enough, there's too much traffic on the (tactical satellite net), and there are no phone lines down to FOB South," Sinclair explained.

In order to remain in contact, the commo shop was forced to turn to different technology - High Frequency Radio, he said.

"Nobody in the theater is using High Frequency right now. They're only



Pfc. Mike Pryor

**Sgt. Jeovannie Melendez (r.) and Staff Sgt. Sean Long of the Red Falcon's signal section, satellite dish on the roof of Forward Operating Base Red Falcon North in Wardak, Afghanistan Aug. 22**

**See "Commo" page 9**



# IG brings wealth of war-time knowledge

By Pfc. Vincent C. Fusco

20th Public Affairs  
Detachment

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan** - Maj. Harlie R. Treat came back to active duty to contribute to his country, help his fellow Soldiers, and "keep a younger major with young children at home instead of being deployed."

"I felt like I could contribute to the mission," said Treat. And he is contributing to the mission, at FOB Salerno with Combined Joint Task Force 76 as the assistant Inspector General to Lt. Col Brian Williams.

Treat returned to active duty after a 12-year hiatus following his retirement in 1983. He first enlisted with the Arkansas National Guard in 1960 as a field artilleryman for six months shortly after high school.

"I did that because I thought it would help me get an appointment to West Point," said Treat, "but I was unable to get the appointment."

He later enlisted into the Army as a forward infantryman, and was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash. After an assignment in Korea with the 7th Infantry Division, he returned to the United States to assume drill sergeant duty, and apply for Officer Candidate School as a staff sergeant in 1967.

Treat graduated at the top of his class, and in 1968 he became the Headquarters Company platoon leader, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. He was later sent to Vietnam as an individual augmentee with the 101st Airborne Division.

"I was in the Pathfinder section when I first got there," said Treat, "and I later became the rifle platoon leader."

"Nobody in my rifle compa-

ny except the company commander had a previous tour there," said Treat. "My platoon sergeant and squad leaders were all draftees with less than two years in the Army."

Following his service in Vietnam, he became an instructor at the Jungle Warfare School in Panama, and commanded the only parachute infantry rifle company in the Canal Zone.

Treat was also an instructor for three years at the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Okla., and a Reserve Officers Training Corps instructor at Texas Tech University for three years.

In 1980, he was assigned as the IG at Fort Stewart, Ga., with the 24th Infantry Division until he retired in Oct. 1983.

At his retirement ceremony, he wore the now-defunct khaki uniform because he, "came into the Army wearing khaki, and was going to leave wearing khaki."

After the events of Sept. 11, 2001, he felt compelled to re-enter active duty. However, after a long, tedious processing of his request, he did not actually become an active duty officer again until last April.

"I felt it was necessary for our country to respond militarily to the 9/11 attacks," said Treat. "With no draft, I knew the Army's resources would be stretched to the limit."

"My children are all grown and finished college, and I have no real responsibility there," said Treat. "The biggest responsibility I have here is to help Soldiers and commanders to solve problems that they have not been able to resolve on their own."

The role of the Inspector General is to identify systemic problems where the procedures set forth by the system have been followed, but failed to produce desired results.

"In general terms," Treat



Pfc. Vincent C. Fusco

**Treat at his desk, his guidon from Panama displayed behind him: A Company Airborne, 3rd Battalion, 5th Infantry (part of 193rd Infantry Brigade).**

explains, "if a vehicle has a flat tire, we don't fix the flat: we see why it's not fixed or why it went flat in the first place."

The IG assists unit leaders in solving any problem that affects any Soldier's ability to do his or her job, whether it is a problem with a Soldier's finances, logistics or otherwise.

"If you have a problem, you make it known to the chain of command," said Treat. "If that doesn't solve it, the IG is here as a backup. The commanders should always have the first shot to solve a problem."

In his experiences working with Soldiers, Treat has noticed how problems with frequent deployments and family separation in the

Global War on Terror are very similar to those faced by Soldiers during the Vietnam War

"The primary difference is that Soldiers now deploy with their units, whereas Soldiers were sent to Vietnam as individual replacements," said Treat. "I think the unit deployment is the better method."

"I've been very impressed at the quality of today's enlisted [Soldiers] and their willingness to accomplish difficult missions," said Treat. "We are fortunate today to have much more experienced leadership in our rifle platoons."

Moreover, the Army is that much more fortunate to have experienced leadership like Treat in the ranks.



## Commo

from page 7

using TacSat," he said.

There are several advantages to the AN/PRC - 150 High Frequency radio, said Staff Sgt. Sean Long, battalion communications chief. One advantage is it allows users to communicate with each other directly over extremely long distances.

"You could probably talk around the world if you had everything set up right," said Long.

Another advantage of using high frequency radio is that there are no limits on how often it can be used, said Long. Because of the high volume of traffic on the TacSat, the battalion had previously been limited to transmitting only

during certain time windows or during emergencies. With HF, that's no longer an issue.

When it became obvious how valuable having HF could be, Battalion Commander Lt. Col. David Anders made setting up an HF connection a top priority. The signal shop worked every day to make it happen but kept running into one problem after another, Long said.

"It's just a difficult system to use. There are so many environmental factors," said Lt. Jeremy Severn, battalion signal officer.

Part of the problem was due to the way HF radio works, said Sgt. Jeovannie Melendez. HF operates by bouncing its signal through the atmosphere. Depending on the time of day

and the distance of the transmission, it may have to bounce through as many as five layers of atmosphere, he said. As a result, the success of the transmission depends on the time of day and the angle of the antenna. Controlling all those factors was a struggle.

But all those obstacles were overcome when the communications shop made their first successful transmission Aug. 21.

"What the Colonel wanted was to be able to get on the radio and talk to D Co. without having to use the TacSat. Now he can do that," Sinclair said.

But there's no rest for the weary. The very next day the communications shop began work on its next big project - getting cable TV hooked up for football season.

# Marines battle Afghan heat wave

**By Sgt. Robert M. Storm**  
2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

JALALABAD, Afghanistan - Frequently, Marines must adapt and overcome, and for Marines and sailors from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, adapting to the weather in Afghanistan is proving to be a challenge they are overcoming.

"My girlfriend in Phoenix tried to write me and complain about the heat. I just laughed and told her not to even go there," said Jeremy T. Hooee, infantryman, from Zuni, New Mexico. "We have to drink a case of water every time we go out on patrol

just to keep from passing out. Your head pounds and your cammies are completely soaked like you took a shower in them, but you just tough it out because that's the job we do."

Jalalabad is experiencing a heat wave in an area already notorious for its heat. With average temperatures during July exceeding 115 degrees, the Marines and sailors suffer through each day. To make matters worse, when the Marines and sailors go out on patrol, they must wear a flak vest with two heavy plates, Kevlar helmet, and ammo pouches along with other necessary gear like first aid kits. The resulting load is usually about

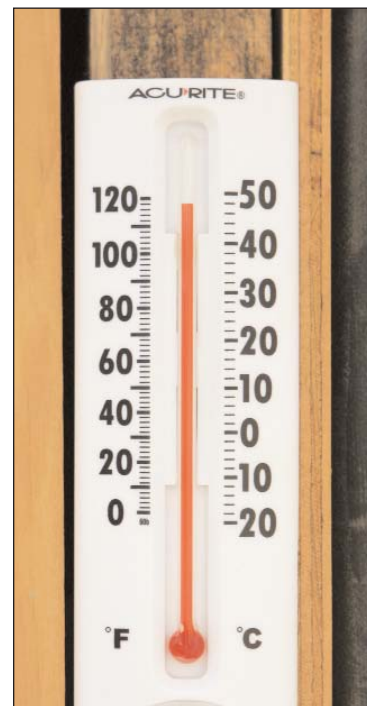
60 pounds and must be worn throughout the day and night while outside of the forward operating base.

"When we go outside the wire and have to put on all our gear it's like putting on a sweater in the middle of summer to go jogging," said Lance Cpl. Garfield, infantryman, from Columbus, Georgia. "The patrols aren't physically challenging to your muscles, it's just the heat that kills you."

The daytime temperatures are so high that water must be left in the shade, or it becomes too hot to drink. More than one Marine has complained of burning his tongue on the water left out in the sun. The water for the shower is solar heated, and Marines and sailors find that during the middle of the day when many would like to shower for some relief from the heat, finding that relief is impossible because the water is so hot it hurts.

"The showers can't be used during the day; it's crazy because you'll actually be sweating in the shower it is so hot," said Hooee.

Medical personnel for the battalion report very few heat casualties, and most of the cases are from the beginning of the deployment. The outside temperature is monitored and rated by a system of flag colors. Every hour of every day is recorded so that battalion leaders can adjust



Sgt. Robert M. Storm

workloads to prevent heat casualties.

"We haven't had a day in Afghanistan that hasn't been black flag, referring to the highest level accorded for daytime temperatures. The leadership in this battalion - officers, staff non-commissioned officers, and non-commissioned officers are doing a good job of making sure the Marines and sailors aren't overworked and that they stay hydrated," said Chief Petty Officer Joseph R. Burds, senior medical department representative, from El Paso, Texas. "We would know if they weren't."



Sgt. Robert M. Storm

**Navy Lt. Charles G. Emond, battalion surgeon from Santa Rosa, Calif. treats a local Afghan child despite the blazing heat wave that has recently hit Jalalabad.**



## Neptune

from page 1

came flying off. I'll never forget that," said Pfc. Chris Strokland.

The close call lent a heightened sense of urgency to the rest of the operation. Only hours after the blast, Paratroopers received information that the IED-emplacer might be staying in a village nearby. Wasting no time, Capt. Jeff Burgoyne's B Co. soon had the area cordoned off. He and his men stalked through the village until they found the elder in charge.

Suspecting the elder was concealing information, Burgoyne made sure he understood what was at stake.

"I'm holding you responsible for the attacks because they happened in this area. You know who did it, and until we find out who they are, we can't help you," he told the man.

Burgoyne left the village with a name and a location, but the bomber had already managed to slip away.

The next morning the battalion finished searching the last of its objectives. By evening the first convoys were beginning to make the trek back north to their

FOB. That's when the militia forces struck again.

The second IED attack occurred on the highway to Wardak during a late-night ambush by approximately seven terrorists using small arms fire and rocket propelled grenades. Paratroopers repulsed the attack, killing one of the ambushers. No coalition forces were harmed during the fight.

With the mission behind them, Paratroopers who were involved said they were glad to finally engage the enemy they had been sent to Afghanistan to find.

"In my opinion, the biggest thing to come out of the operation was that it established our presence in the area. The enemy knows we're here now and they know we're here for a reason," said Lt. Ross Kinkead, the assistant battalion operations officer.

"It's kind of like the line has been drawn - Plain and simple, we're here to kill or capture the enemy," said Kinkead.

As a whole, Operation Neptune was conducted by hundreds of ANA, ANP and NDS, along with three U.S. battalions in the Ghazni and Paktika provinces. The forces conducted a total of 56 patrols, 20 meetings with local leaders, captured 32 anti-coalition militants and netted numerous weapons caches.

"We will continue relentless offensive operations against the enemy in RC East," said Maj. Jaime Martinez, executive officer of CTF Devil. "CTF Devil will maintain this pressure on the enemy at the border and in the interior; paratroopers are everywhere working hand-in-hand with Afghan security forces."



Pfc. Mike Pryor

**A flock of sheep passes by Sgt. Jeremy Denardo of Company B, Task Force Red Falcon, as he pulls guard while his company searches a village in Nawa District Aug. 10**

## Turner

from page 6

said casually.

As the mission continued, the merciless desert heat, unsanitary conditions, and unrelenting tempo of operations caused heat casualties to start piling up. Some cases required nothing more than an IV drip. Others were more serious.

Turner was nearby when 1st Lt. Stuart Peebles, who had been receiving fluids, went into a seizure the night of August 9. Turner leaped into action.

"His eyes rolled back in his head and his whole body went rigid," Turner said.

Peebles had stopped breathing and his brain was no longer receiving oxygen.

Knowing the situation was critical, Turner knelt down and began administering CPR.

"I gave two rescue breaths and Lt. Peebles shot up and said 'I'm good! I'm good!' Turner said.

Peebles was air evacuated later that night and is expected to make a full recovery. Turner, typically, downplays the incident.

"Yeah, the last person I made out with was a male

lieutenant," he said.

After continuing to provide medical care throughout the operation, Turner was riding back to his FOB in a convoy when it was ambushed by a group of insurgents. The well-positioned attackers

hit the convoy with improvised explosive devices, rocket propelled grenades, and small-arms fire, but miraculously no one was

**"I have yet to lose a Soldier in my care, and that's the way I like it,"**

-Sgt. Christopher Turner

Medic, Task Force Red Falcon

hurt. Then, not so miraculously, the truck Turner was in rolled into a ditch.

Despite seeming to bounce from one catastrophe to another, Turner remains upbeat. By his own personal yardstick, he said, this deployment has been an unqualified success.

"I've yet to lose a Soldier in my care, and that's the way I like it," he said.

## We want to hear from you

Are you an aspiring writer or photographer? We want to use your stories and photos in the Desert Devil Dispatch to highlight the great things the men and women of Regional Command-East are doing. For more information, e-mail Master Sgt. Geoffrey Carter at [carterg@cjt76.centcom.mil](mailto:carterg@cjt76.centcom.mil).